

fied time; that this current can be applied generally over any large surface, through a limb, or can be localized in any part, organ, surface, etc., however circumscribed; also an interrupted current from an electro-magnetic or magneto-electric battery can be applied by means of this conducting material with the same ease by the surgeon. Thus the current may be applied by the patient at any time during the day or during the night; or without removing the clothes the surgeon may apply any required current to the patient; or a persistent measured current may be caused to pass day and night or for a specified time, the patient carrying about his person a portable battery. The apparatus, woven material, etc., were exhibited and explained."—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, March 25, 1865.

8. *Alkaline and Earthy Sulphites Externally Applied.*—In the November number of the *Annali Universali di Med.*, Dr. GRITTI gives an account of clinical experiments made by him in the Milan Hospital with the alkaline and earthy sulphites externally applied. He employed the sulphite of soda as lotion (ten parts in 100 of water); and also as an ointment, mixed with a glycerole of starch, which he highly praises, as being free from smell and rancidity—820 *grammes* of pure glycerine are mixed with 100 *grammes* of sulphite of soda, then are added 80 *grammes* of starch; the mixture is gently heated in a bath until it becomes of the consistence of a soft paste. This ointment should be spread on the linen at least twenty-four hours before it is used. The chief uses of the sulphites, as used in solution, are—1, diminution of the secretion; 2, diminution and removal of bad odours; 3, rendering viscous and preventing the spread of bad secretions; 4, destroying the elementary constitution of pus; 5, hastening repair; 6, diminishing the sensibility of the surface; 7, hastening cicatrization.—*British Medical Journal*, March 4, 1865.

9. *Medicated Pessaries and Suppositories.*—Professor SIMPSON brought under notice of the Edinburgh Obstetrical Society some changes that have been made in the form and composition of medicated pessaries, and to throw out some suggestions as to the more extended employment in practice of various kinds of suppositories. He had been in the habit for many years past of applying different kinds of medicated pessaries to the cervix uteri in the treatment of uterine disorders; having been led to their use by finding that bromide and iodide of potassium, and many other substances, could thus be administered locally, which were of no avail in the form of a lotion. As a medium for the administration of drugs the ointment-pessary was not new, for Daremberg, in his late translation and commentary of Oribasius, has pointed out that a form of it was made use of long ago in Rome. Pessaries had not yet found an acknowledged place in the Pharmacopœia; but that did not interfere with their usefulness. Up to a recent date, he (Professor Simpson) had been in the habit of using pessaries composed of simple ointment, with the special drug rubbed up in it, made into a globular shape, and stiffened on the surface by being dipped in some warm melted ointment in which the proportion of wax largely predominated. But, latterly, Messrs. Duncan, Flockhart & Co., of this city had made them for him of cocceine, which presented this great advantage over the old ointment, that it was much more consistent and firm when cold, whilst it melted at a lower temperature, and with greater rapidity. In consequence of this greater solidity of the cocceine it was found that pessaries made of that substance were more easily employed by the patients themselves than the softer and more yielding ointment balls; and the facility of introduction was still further promoted by having them made not spherical, but conical, almost precisely of the shape of a Minié bullet.

Professor Simpson had brought with him specimens of some of these pessaries; but their various constitution and uses would be most easily seen by reference to the following list of them, which had been recently published by the chemical firm to which he had alluded:—

Atropine (Belladonna)	Sedative.....	1-20 grain.
Opium	do.	2 grains.
Morphia.....	do.	1 grain.

Bismuth, Oxide.....	Cicatrizing and Emollient..	15	grains.
Borax.....	do. do.	15	do.
Zinc, Oxide.....	do. do.	15	do.
Tannin.....	Astringent.....	10	do.
Alum.....	do.	15	do.
Alum and Catechu.....	do.	15	do. of each.
Do. Iron.....	do.	10	do.
Acetate of Lead.....	do.	7½	do.
Do. do. and opium....	do.	5	do. 2 grs. opium.
Matico.....	do.	10	do.
Sulphate of Iron (dried).....	do.	10	do.
Gallic Acid.....	do.	10	do.
Perchloride of Iron.....	Hæmostatic.....	5	do.
Persulphate of Iron.....	do.	5	do.
Sulphate of Zinc (dried).....	Caustic.....	10	do.
Carbonate of Soda.....	Antacid.....	15	do.
Carbolate of Lime.....	Deodorant.....	5	do.
Iodide of Lead.....	Alterative and Resolvent..	5	do.
Do. do. and Atropia....	do. do.	5	do. 1-20 Atropia.
Do. Potassium.....	do. do.	10	do.
Bromide of Potassium.....	do. do.	10	do.
Mercurial.....	do. do.	30	do. (<i>Ung. Hydrarg.</i>)

Many of the pessaries are made with morphia ($\frac{1}{2}$, 1, or 2 grains) in them, to suit cases where a sedative is also required. They are also sometimes made hollow in the centre, to allow of a few drops of chloroform liniment being introduced along with them. Various other kinds of pessaries are made.

Besides being useful in the manufacture of pessaries, cocceine would be found invaluable as a medium for the administration of medicinal substances by the rectum. The ordinary suppository mass was apt to be either so soft as to be difficult of introduction through the anus, or so firm in its consistence as to be very slow of solution; and the result in some cases was, that either the medicine was imperfectly applied, or the suppository was so long of dissolving, that the drug had not the opportunity of exerting its specific action at a sufficiently early period. These drawbacks to the use of suppositories was quite done away with when they were made of cocceine, which is at once firm and fusible; and he (Prof. S.) believed that the advantages attached on its use would now probably lead to the more frequent application of medicines through this channel. We had long been in the habit of administering opiates in this way, especially the muriate of morphia in doses varying with each particular case. For many years the suppositories he had most frequently employed contained half a grain of morphia in each; but latterly, for ordinary uses, he had had them made with only a third of a grain, because in a few exceptional cases the half grain exhibited by the rectum seemed to act too powerfully. Dupuytren had pointed out that sometimes opium seemed to affect patients more powerfully when administered per anum, than in the ordinary way; and this case was one of those where the individual appeared to be unusually susceptible of the influence of the dose. But, besides morphia and the opiates, there was a great variety of other remedies that might be usefully applied in this way, as would be seen from this list of suppositories.

Aloine (with Soap).....	1 grain, 5 grains Dry Soap.
Belladonna.....	$\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 grains (<i>Ext. Bellad.</i>).
Bismuth, Oxide.....	10 grains.
Borax.....	5 do.
Copper, Acetate of.....	2 do.
Elaterium.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ grain.
Ergot of Rye.....	2 drops Oil.
Gall and Opium.....	5 grains and 1 grain.
Gamboge.....	5 do.
Henbane.....	5 do. (<i>Ext. Hyoscy.</i>).
Iron, Alum.....	3 do.
Do. Persulphate.....	2 do.
Mercurial.....	6 do. (<i>Ung. Hydrarg.</i>).
Morphia.....	$\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 1½, and 2 grains.
Opium.....	2 grains.
Podophyllin.....	1 grain.

Santonine.....	5 grains.
Soda, Hyposulphite of.....	5 do.
Tannin.....	5 do.
Zinc, Oxide.....	10 do.
Do. Sulphate (dried).....	3 do.

Thus, there were, first, a number of cathartics which might be introduced into the rectum, and thus often afford relief to patients, without their being subjected to the disagreeable ordeal of swallowing some nauseous medicine. We had all known that nurses were occasionally in the habit of introducing a bit of soap into the bowels of children, with the view of inducing a motion, and the result was thus probably due to the physical irritation that ensued. But the question was, whether we could not introduce some substance into the rectum in the form of a suppository, which would exert such an action on the mucous or muscular coats of the bowel as to lead to a full evacuation. He (Prof. S.) had employed the gamboge suppository in some instances, with a satisfactory result. When introduced into a rectum which was distended with fecal matter, it almost always acted comfortably within an hour; but if introduced into an empty bowel it gave rise to severe griping. He had under his care a lady from Liverpool, who told him the other day with an air of much surprise, that her bowels had acted the night before. She had been habitually constipated, and for many years had had no relief except from the use of an enema, which she used to employ in the morning; and the evening evacuation which had so astonished her resulted from the action of a gamboge suppository which had been introduced. He was not, of course, prepared to say what the precise doses of the different drugs, when thus employed, ought to be; certainly the half-grain of elaterium noted in the list was too large a dose, and in one case had produced some dysenteric symptoms. He sometimes saw, along with Dr. MacLagan, a young lady in whom half a grain of podophyllin in a suppository acted very easily and well; but, in some other patients, the use of a podophyllin suppository had been followed by a very prolonged diarrhœa.

Again, mercury could be administered in the suppository form in cases where it was deemed necessary to salivate, for its specific action was sometimes very rapidly developed when it was thus employed. In this form, moreover, it was one of the most effectual means at our command for the destruction of ascarides; an object which in other instances might probably be attended by the use of suppositories containing santonin or hyposulphite of soda as their active ingredients.

Besides the drugs of the aperient class, we might employ others of a more sedative or tonic character. Thus the acetate-of-copper suppository had been found useful in case of bleeding piles, and he had seen a patient who was suffering from fissure of the anus, and who rebelled against the use of morphia, greatly relieved by employing suppositories containing the dried sulphate of zinc. Ergot might be administered in this manner in appropriate cases; and quinia and iron might be similarly administered—especially with patients whose stomach resented the use of chalybeates. Astringents, too, of every variety, could be employed with the greatest benefit; and, indeed, one could hardly predicate how many kinds of medicines we may yet learn usefully to administer in the form of a simple suppository.—*Edinburgh Medical Journal*, May, 1865.

10. *Basic Nitrate of Bismuth as a Disinfectant*.—This article, when applied to suppurating wounds, is said to remove all odour, and hasten the healing process. It has been employed in scrofulous sores with much success.

11. *A New Soup for Children*. By JUSTUS VON LIEBIG.—For mothers, who have not the good fortune to be able to nurse their own children, or who are deficient in nourishment for their young, the choice of a food suitable for the support of the latter is an object of importance; custom and opinions differ for the most part on the subject, and as the simple laws of nutrition, which should determine this choice are, generally speaking, wholly unknown to the persons to whom the selection must be left, the bodily development of the